

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2456 (C2344)
Application No.: 09/661,547
Office Action Dated: December 12, 2003

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 33 through 52 are pending in this application. The Examiner has indicated claims 33 through 39 and 47 through 52 are allowed. Claims 40 through 46 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,042,389 (Lemke et al.).

Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in light of the above-recited amendments and following remarks.

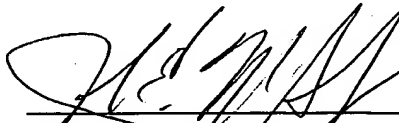
The Prior Art Rejection

In the section of the office action entitled "Allowable Subject Matter," the Examiner indicates that claim 47 is allowable because it "recites the limitation of the tail contacts being separated from the second connector half by an air gap *until reflow*." (Office Action, p. 4.) (emphasis in original.) Applicants' undersigned representative proposes adding this limitation to claim 40. Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully submits that claim 40 is novel over Lemke et al. in view of this amendment and requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully submits that claims 33 through 52 patentably define over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the Office Action issued on December 12, 2003 and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Date: March 8, 2004



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